

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for presenting forms and publishing form data, said method comprising:

maintaining a field engine table, said table comprising data identifying one or more fields of a form;

receiving a request for a network resource including said form;

in response to said request, determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized to respond to said request;

in response to determining that a previously compiled class file should not be utilized to respond to said request, creating an executable class file capable of generating markup language for displaying said fields of said form in a web browser;

generating said markup language by executing said class file; and

returning said markup language as a response to said request for a network resource.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises determining whether said request for said network resource was a first request for said network resource.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises determining whether said request for said network resource was a first request for said network resource or whether a web server operative to provide said network resource was reset since the last time said network resource was accessed.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said field engine table further comprises data indicating a data type for each of said fields.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said field engine table further comprises a form name and a version number corresponding to each of said fields.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said field engine table further comprises field names for each of said fields of said form and wherein said field names are associated with each of said fields by said class file.

7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising:
receiving a request to publish response data associated with each of said field names; and
storing said response data associated with each of said field names in an output table having fields with names identical to said field names.

8. A computer system for presenting forms and publishing form data, said computer system comprising:

a field engine table comprising data identifying one or more fields to be utilized in a form;

a network resource including said form; and

a software component for receiving and responding to requests for said network resource, said software component operative to determine whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized to respond to a request for said network resource, to create an executable class file capable of generating markup language for displaying said fields of said form in a web browser in response to determining that a previously compiled class file should not be utilized, to execute said class file, and to respond to said request with said markup language generated by the execution of said class file.

9. The computer system of Claim 8, wherein determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises determining whether said request for said network resource was a first request for said network resource or whether said software component was reset since a previous request for said network resource.

10. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said field engine table further comprises data indicating a data type for each of said fields.

11. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein said field engine table further comprises a form name and a version number corresponding to each of said fields.

12. The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said field engine table further comprises field names for each of said fields of said form and wherein said field names are associated with each of said fields by said class file.

13. The computer system of Claim 12, wherein said software component is further operative to receive the submission of response data associated with each of said field names, and to store said response data associated with each of said field names in an output table having fields with names identical to said field names.

14. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

determine whether a request has been received for a network resource for providing a form;

in response to determining that a request for said network resource has been received, determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized to respond to said request for said form;

in response to determining that a previously compiled class file should not be utilized, creating an executable class file capable of retrieving a description of one or more fields for said form and generating content capable of displaying said one or more fields in a web browser; and

executing said class file and transmitting said content generated by said class file in response to said request.

15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, further comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

execute said previously compiled class file in response to determining that said previously compiled class file should be utilized and responding to said request with content generated by said previously compiled class file.

16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, further comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to utilize said previously compiled class file if said request for said network resource is not a first request for said network resource and if a software component for receiving said request has not been reset since a previous request for said network resource.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, further comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

receive a request to publish response data associated with each of said field names; and

store said response data associated with each of said field names in an output table having fields with names identical to said field names.